

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please insert the following abstract following page 11 of the specification:

**--ABSTRACT**

A method of transmitting signalling information in a telecommunications network between peer user/application parts. Signalling information is transferred from a first user/application part to a Message Transfer Part (MTP) level 3, the information including a destination signalling point identifier identifying the signalling point at which the peer user/application part is located. The MTP level 3 determines from the destination signalling point identifier, a destination address suitable for conveying the signalling information to the destination signalling point. In the event that the destination address is an Internet Protocol (IP) address and port number, the signalling information and the determined IP address and port number are transferred to an IP part for transmission over an IP network to the destination signalling point.--

Please amend the title beginning at page 1, line 1:

A Method and Apparatus for a Signaling Message Transport Mechanism